PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 30th inst., for building a covered corn-exchange at Bedford; by July 2nd, for the erection of a bank at Darlington; by 4th, for the erection of schools at Margate; by 10th, for the erection of town-hall, county court, and mechanics' institute, at Stonehouse, Devonport; by 11th, for the erection of a pensioners' establishment at Regent's-park barracks; by 10th, for the erection of the Welsh Educational Institute, at Llandovery; by 29th inst., for the erection of a vicarage and offices at Bardsey; by 27th, for the erection of extensive farm buildings at Kirtling, Cambridgeshire; by 3rd July, for cutting trenches for water mains near Manchester; by 28th inst., for the whole or any portion of the works in erection of a north wing and additions to Manchester Royal Infirmary; by 3rd July, for the erection and completion of a warehouse at the Huddersfield Station of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway; by 3rd, for constructing a sluice at Outwell and for excavating the canal from Wisbech to Outwell; by 6th, for relaying carriage way in High-street and Spital-square, and other works: by 26th inst., for building sewers in Little Moorfields, &c., City; by 25th, for the construction of an outlet sewer at Toxteth-park, Liverpool; by 27th, for making roads and footpaths in Walthamstow parish; and by a date not specified for improving turnpike roads at Worcester.

COMPETITIONS.—Advertisements have been issued for plans, &c., of a church for Cheltenham; and for workhouse accommodation at Chelsea: particulars as advertised.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—On Thursday in last week, the annual distribution of prizes took place, H. R. H. Prince Albert, the president, in the chair. In his speech, the prince stated that he had been induced this year to offer two medals on his own account, to be competed for on two subjects, very different in themselves, but appearing to ask for competition, and to be particularly eligible as subjects to which public attention should be drawn. The first was for making a good cement to bind glass together. The substitution of glass for metals was a matter of great importance as regarded cleanliness, and consequently the promotion of the public health, and that had been prevented to a great extent by the want of a cement that would hold. All connected with the manufacture of glass well knew that slipperiness of surface was a great cause of the difficulty experienced. But the subject of the next medal was one of national importance, and was intended to promote an improved system in the production of sugar. His Royal Highness then entered more fully into this question, which is out of our province. He expressed his satisfaction to see in the Colonial Secretary's presence a proof of the importance attached by the Government to this subject. The latter medal was awarded to Dr. Mitchell, but the former was not conferred on any one. The report read by the secretary stated that the revenue had increased during the past year from 800*l.* to 1,600*l.* per annum, and that the society had applied to the Board of Trade and the Woods and Forests for a space of ground for exhibitions of manufactures, the first of which it was proposed to hold in 1851. The prizes were then distributed, and the meeting was addressed by the Bishop of Norwich, Chevalier Bunsen, Sir E. Codrington, and others, and a vote of thanks accorded to the president.

THE PARISIAN PORTABLE ALARUM.—A cheap portable alarum has been submitted to us by Mr. Adams, and seems worthy the attention of those who require occasionally to rise early. The all-important point in an alarum is, of course, that it should go off at the *desired moment*; and if all comply with this condition as well as the specimen now in our hands does, buyers will have no reason to complain.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION OF THE WORKS OF LIVING ARTISTS was opened on the 15th, at the Tuileries. As might almost be expected, it is not of high character.

MURAL PAINTINGS AT ST. CROSS.—Mr. Baigent wishes us to state that the report that he was stopped in his efforts to obtain complete sketches of these paintings is not correct, as "nothing was done to the walls until several days afterwards."

BREACH OF CONTRACT IN THE IRON TRADE.—A case was recently tried in the Court of Exchequer, in which Baron Parke held that a firm-offer, authorising a party to sell at a stated price "till" a specified date, included the date so specified, till the evening of that day. But such an offer, he held, was not a binding contract till the bought and sold notes were communicated, and in this case that was not done till the day following. Evidence of this being the usage of the trade he did not think satisfactory, as offered in this case. A majority of the jury, however, held it to be so. But the Baron started another difficulty. The contract he was of opinion was revocable, and in this case it was revoked by the defendant in due time, namely, on the last date specified in the offer, on its acceptance by the plaintiff. His lordship, therefore, directed a nonsuit in the claim of 187*l.* 10s. paid to another party on 300 tons of bar iron, on a rise in price from 5*l.* 7s. 6d. to 6*l.*,—with leave, however, to move to enter a verdict for the sum claimed. Eventually, to prevent further litigation, a juror was withdrawn, and the judge asked to decide whether the plaintiff were entitled to recover any, and if any, what sum. His lordship approved of this on account of various legal difficulties in the way, and awarded half the sum claimed.

BATHS AND WASHHOUSES. — TIMELY ADVICE.—A foreign visiter to some of our public baths, the Baron de Suarce, while honouring the English of all classes for the establishment of such noble institutions, advises the exercise of great and even scientific care in the cleansing of towels and flannels, particularly in such a season as the present, and, above all, in the metropolis, "whither crowd strangers from every quarter of the globe, many of them from countries deplorably unhealthy, and where disease has an increased malignity." It is not sufficient, as the Baron urges, that the towels be boiled in alkaline water—the ordinary mode of cleansing,—for thus "the corrupt humours of the diseased *may* be enfixed in them. That," he adds, "is what your medical men, agreeing with me, will tell you, and particularly your manufacturers in wool and cotton. At Leeds, and in the west of England, the operation of cleansing the wool is known to require a wash possessing *a certain precise amount and no more of alkali and heat*, as the slightest deviation irremoveably *fixes the oil* in the texture, *instead of separating the two*."

IMPROVEMENT AT PRINCES-STREET GARDENS, EDINBURGH.—Arrangements are in progress between the Government and the Edinburgh Town Council for a grant of ground on the mound, Princes-street, for the purpose of erecting buildings for the annual exhibitions of the Royal Scottish Academy, the extension of the Schools of Design, and the institution of a National Gallery of Painting and Sculpture. A design by the city architect, Mr. Cousin, has also been favourably considered by the council for the appropriation of a sum of money paid by the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company, in the adornment and public opening of the gardens across which the mound runs. The scheme includes a terrace 95 feet wide along the eastern division, with the Scott monument in the centre, on the side next Princes-street, and a range of statues on pedestals. The plans, which comprise further improvements, are to be submitted for suggestion to other architects or artists.

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.—Contracts have been entered into at Glasgow, for the construction of part of the Nithsdale line between Sanquhar and Cumnock, a distance of 14 miles. Mr. Ritson is contractor for one-half the distance, and Messrs. Jeffs for one-fourth. The works are not heavy, and as the labour is cheap, they have been taken at 66,100*l.*, to be completed in eighteen months. At the Drumlanrig tunnel there is now a drift through the whole excavation.——Another fatal accident has occurred at the Bramhope tunnel, where a stone from a blast in one shaft entered another 210 feet apart, and killed one of the workmen.——Large sales of rails, to the extent of some 13,000 tons, are rumoured to have been charged to the York and Berwick Company, at 3*l.* or more per ton than they cost. It is said that a large iron house will undergo close examination on this point.——The railway clocks on the Great Northern and other principal lines in France are now regulated by electricity, the mean time emanating from one regulating clock on the Great Northern.—— In Massachusetts there are 37 railway companies, with a capital stock of 50,004,100 dollars. The length of road is 954 miles, besides 88 of branches, cost 46,777,009 dollars. The earnings for last year were 6,067,154 dollars, working expenses 3,284,933 dollars. Only 220 miles are of double track. Mean speed of passenger-trains about 23½—of luggage-trains about 12½ miles. Return of casualties,—56 persons killed, and 65 injured. During the year 300 miles of new road have been put in operation on the lines leading to Boston. The total mileage in the United States being 6,421, nearly one-sixth is in Massachusetts.

LORD ROSSE'S LAST SOIREE.—At the fourth and last *conversazione* given by Lord Rosse to the Fellows of the Royal Society on the 16th inst., there was a considerable attendance of men eminent in art, science, and literature. Amongst the matters exhibited which more particularly bore on our speciality was an extraordinary model of the Go Prum, or great gate of the Pagoda at Cimbaconum, near Tanjore, in the East Indies. This singular work is of pyramidal form above the gateway, in twelve stories, and displays about 300 carved figures. Mr. Perigal exhibited his instrument to develop a peculiar law of compound motion generating "retrogressive" curves, which has been seen before at similar meetings; and Mr. Scriven exhibited a model of the Ainslie Tile Economic Kilns, wherein the heat, generated in one kiln, and having there done its work, is made to pass into another, and advance the ware a certain stage. There were some pretty specimens of the vitrified lace-pattern glass, and an admirable collection of photographs by Messrs. Henneman and Co., of Regent-street, and Mr. John Woolley, an amateur. The architects mustered strongly, and the builders were not unrepresented.

VULCANIZED INDIA-RUBBER JOINTS.—In reply to inquiries, we have had no personal experience in the durability of Mr. Brockedon's vulcanized joints. There are reports, however, on the subject by Mr. Wicksteed and Mr. A. Aikin, which are strongly in their favour. Caoutchouc is vulcanized by combination with a certain small proportion of sulphur.

SOCIETY OF ARTS; LABOURERS' COTTAGES.—We have received several letters, complaining, in strong terms, of the non-adjudgment of the premium offered by the society for the best design for labourers' cottages. The society assert that the condition as to cost (100*l.* for each five-roomed cottage) was not adhered to.

A WORD IN SEASON.—Never be cast down by trifles. If a spider break his thread twenty times, twenty times will he mend it again. Make up your minds to do a thing in compass, and you will do it. Fear not if trouble comes upon you; keep up your spirits, though the day be a dark one.

> Troubles never stop for ever,
> The darkest day will pass away.

Fight hard against a hasty temper. If anger come, resist it stoutly. A spark may set a house on fire. A fit of passion may give you cause to mourn all the days of your life. Whatever you do, do it willingly. A boy that is whipped to school never learns his lesson well. A man that is compelled to work, cares not how badly it is performed. He that pulls off his coat cheerfully, strips up his sleeves in earnest, and sings while he works, is the man for us.

> A cheerful spirit gets on quick;
> A grumbler in the mud will stick.

BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS,

EDITED BY GEORGE GODWIN, F.R.S., &c.

Part II., containing views of the Army and Navy Club House, Pall Mall; St. Stephen's Church and Schools, Westminster; Interior of the Museum of Economic Geology, with details; Chapter House of Lincoln Cathedral; New Hall, Pembroke College, Oxford; South Hackney Church; Interior of the Royal Italian Opera House, and University Galleries and Taylor Institute, Oxford, will be published on Saturday next.

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